



VOL. 1, NO. 2, DECEMBER 2008

Inside ...of OJJ

Mission:

The Office of Juvenile Justice protects the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth, who will become productive,



Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary

I hope you enjoyed the premier issue of [The Inside Scoop...of OJJ](#). Remember it's your newsletter and we want to make sure it's a publication you look forward to reading. There is a list of "reporters" in each office and facility on the last page, and they will welcome your ideas and contributions.

Please join me in expressing heartfelt condolences to Director Jerry Ward, his family and the entire staff at Swanson on the losses they suffered in November.

Director Ward's wife Sharon passed away Nov. 24 after a long illness. The Wards have four grown children and 20 grandchildren. Sharon Ward was strong in her Christian faith and very active at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Monroe, where she was a lifelong member. She was General Manager for the Continental Airlines stations in Monroe, Jackson, Miss. and for the last six years, Alexandria, LA. Mrs. Ward is survived by a large family in addition to Director Ward and their children.

SCY Youthcare Worker Henry Fields passed away November 14. He was found unresponsive in the Holly unit and died later that day at St. Francis North Hospital. Mr. Fields was a standout football player at McNeese State University, where he received a number of honors and set several records. He is survived by two daughters, fiancée, parents, two sisters, grandmother, nephew and friends.

I ask that you keep Director Ward, his family and the OJJ family at Swanson in your thoughts and prayers.

I also want to tell you all how proud I am of the entire OJJ staff and what a wonderful job you are doing. As long as we all focus on doing what's right for our kids we know we are moving in the right direction.

I look forward to visiting with you again next month in [The Inside Scoop...of OJJ](#).

"Doc"

Dr. Mary L. Livers

Soul Food

An inspirational column by OJJ staff



Swanson Chaplain Ricky L. James

Let not your heart be troubled.

People everywhere have experienced some type of tragedy or loss in their lives. And we here at Swanson Center for Youth have certainly had our share within the last few years, ranging from employees' relatives to employees themselves.

Tragedies, loss and death are not always easy to accept. But we must accept them and move on with our lives.

Some folks grieve or handle death in different ways. Some cry. Some get angry. Some feel loneliness; some feel like it's their fault, while others feel pain inside and many other types of emotions.

It's alright to grieve but don't be consumed by your grieving, because life must go on. We must go on, too. We still have to live, and complete our task and the purpose for which God has placed us here. We must live in the moment and enjoy one another.

A man's life span is short. In fact, life itself is short, as it is said, "life is like a vapor." And vapor does not last very long. In fact, it's gone as fast as it's formed.

And that's the way life is. It does not matter how long you live, or how short you live, life is still too short. But what matters most is how you live your life here on earth.

Yes, life is short, but what are you going to do with your life while you are living?

We are told "let not your heart be troubled." Don't worry about things that you don't have control over. We know prayer can change lives - leave it there.

The Serenity Prayer says "Lord help me to change the things that I can. And help me to accept the things I cannot. And give me the wisdom to know the difference."

Humbly submitted by
Chaplain Ricky L. James,
Swanson Center for Youth

THE DAILY MOTIVATOR

Make a difference

Your time is never wasted when you're truly making a difference. Every productive effort adds value to your world.

Don't worry about what's in it for you. If you're making a difference, if you're making a positive contribution to life, there's always something in it for you.

Though there may not seem to be any direct or immediate rewards, your efforts will most certainly be rewarded. The longer you're willing to wait for those rewards, the bigger they will be.

Many times your efforts will pay off in ways you could not have foreseen. Keep being creative, keep being productive, keep being effective, and keep being your best.

It may sometimes seem that no one appreciates the work you're doing. When you feel that way, then raise your efforts to an even higher level, for at some point someone will definitely take notice.

Be sincere in your efforts and in your desire to make a valuable, meaningful positive difference. And know that the rewards will always come.

-- Ralph Marston

Staff Spotlight

Spotlight on... Elois Nelson, PPO3, Baton Rouge Regional Office



Elois Nelson was exposed to criminal justice issues at a very young age. As a child, she visited the women's prison in St. Gabriel where her mother was incarcerated for a time. LCIW changed not only her mother's life for the better, but years later it changed Elois' life as well.

"Life presents many choices and I chose not to let the cycle repeat itself," Elois said. "We make our own choices."

Reared by an aunt who was an educator, the values of education instilled in Elois as a child still linger today. Her first academic accomplishment was graduation from Brusly High School. A few years later, she landed her first job in state government. After receiving several promotions she was challenged with accepting a job at LCIW.

"It was hard to believe that Warden Johnnie Jones and Deputy Warden Nellie Gonsoulin, who were at the prison where my mother had been incarcerated, and where I visited for many years, were still there. I had to make a conscious decision about whether or not working at LCIW would affect me emotionally and cause me to negatively relive what I had experienced many years before. I've always seen life

as a challenge. So I prayed about it, embraced the challenge, and went for it. LCIW gave me an appreciation for criminal justice and law enforcement."

During her tenure at LCIW, Elois was promoted from the warden's administrative secretary to an administrative specialist. In this capacity, she became chair of the American Correctional Association (ACA) Audit Team for the facility. The team made sure that all operations of the prison were in compliance with ACA standards and policies.

Elois credits the warden and deputy warden at LCIW with mentoring her and encouraging her to go to college and get a degree. "I thank them every time our paths cross," Elois said. During her undergrad days, an internship at the West Baton Rouge Parish Adult Probation and Parole office sparked her interest in probation and parole work.

"I initially wanted to be an adult probation and parole officer, but I believe God puts us where we need to be. I love working with the kids. I feel I can relate to them and what they may be experiencing based on what I've been through in my own personal life. There have even been times when I have shared my childhood experience with the kids I supervise, if I've felt it would help. My goal is to be role model for our kids," Elois said.

Elois got her foot in the door at the Baton Rouge office in May 2005 as an administrative coordinator with a brand new bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Southern University. It was the first step toward her dream job as a probation and parole officer. Just a few months later, Elois moved into a PPO 1 position, promoted to a PPO 2 after

completing POST training, and was recently promoted to a PPO 3 in late October. She would eventually earn a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in corrections.

Sue Larisey, Baton Rouge Regional Manager, spotlighted Elois due to her work ethic, which led to her recent promotion to a PPO 3. "Elois spends countless hours working and does not expect anything in return," Sue said. "Elois is quiet, and does her job very well. She deserves the recognition."

"Working at OJJ has got to be a gift," Elois said. "Not everyone can do this job. You have to have a genuine compassion for people. A few cases have brought me to tears."

Elois has two grown sons, ages 21 and 25, and two granddaughters, whom she describes as "simply gorgeous." She is a member of Bethany World Prayer Center in Baker, and a league bowler.

"I know I'm a workaholic," Elois admits. "I do spend a lot of time at work. But what motivates me most about my job is the confidence I have within myself in knowing that I am where God wants me to be and I'm doing what He wants me to do."

"I love my job - I love what I do," Elois concluded.

OJJ Bids Farewell to Recent Retirees

Congratulations to our retirees, who have served OJJ for many years. We wish each of them the best in their retirement years.

Robert Higginbotham, Corrections Captain at Bridge City, retired with 24 years of service.

Mary Pace, Administrative Coordinator in the Shreveport Regional Office, retired with 10 years of service.

Deborah Heckert retired with 36 years of service as an instructor at Jetson on October 16, 2008. Her husband informed us that she passed away November 11. Our condolences to Mrs. Heckert's family.

Alexandria Regional Office

Alexandria OJJ celebrated Thanksgiving with **Dr. Mary Livers** and **Deputy Assistant Secretary Carolyn Lewis**, who joined staff for a special meal November 25. All staff participated by bringing a dish - and a special thanks to **Clay Dupuy** for cooking the delicious turkey. We were also glad to have our mailman "Darryl" join us for dinner as well.

In November all staff completed CPR training, taught by **Jacqueline Stapleton Page** from Central Office.

PPOs were recertified in Chemical Weapons training, held at Natchitoches OJJ. Staci Scott from Ware Youth Center provided the training.

A provider's meeting held at the Pineville Community Center drew about 75 attendees. Deputy Assistant Secretary Carolyn Lewis gave the welcome and introduction. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss operational issues and the

gather feedback from providers. Providers had questions on emergency placement process. Other discussion centered around gender-specific programming for females, the RFP process, evidence based practices and Medicaid funding.

Baton Rouge Regional Office

PPO 1 Patsy Adams graduated from the POST Academy in November.

Elois Nelson was promoted to PPO3.

Baton Rouge OJJ welcomes three new PPO1s: **Brandon Woods, Lolita Howard and Leslie Jones.**

Bridge City Center for Youth

BCCY sponsored its First Annual Pink Day October 23, chaired by Kenyatta D. Guilford, Educator. October is nationally designated as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. "Making Strides for a Cure" was this year's theme. Staff throughout every discipline showed their support for a worthy cause by wearing a pink shirt from their closet, pink laces in their shoes, pink ribbons in their hair, or a suitable article in pink. Staff also dug deep into their hearts and pockets and contributed funds that were donated to the American Cancer Society in the name of Bridge City Center for Youth.

BCCY hosted the 2008 Talent Show October 31. Talent categories ranged from singing, rapping, and dancing to original poetry and art. Staff and youth participated in a well rounded show with representation from every department in attendance. First place winners Gerald M. and Breannco G. demonstrated their skills through an inspirational liturgical dance, second place winner Breanno G. was a solo artist, and third place winner Josh M. represented his artistic design through drawing.



Central Office

Central Office staff enjoy their Thanksgiving luncheon.

Central Office enjoyed a Thanksgiving luncheon that included a varied menu of delicious food and desserts. Many thanks to committee members **Nita Franklin Shanklin, Katherine Abrams, Marvel Adams, Clarett Blount, Suzie Durett, NyKisha Franklin, Shirley Jackson, Kimberly Jones, Katie Kirkpatrick, Gail Miller, Glenda Ratcliff and Terri Scott.**

Central Office welcomes new employees:

John Fruge, Procurement Director, comes to us from the Secretary of State's office.

Nona Tucker, Property Manager, returns to OJJ from Prison Enterprises. She responds to audit

findings and works on fleet issues and annual certification.

Diamond Paten, Administrative Assistant, is working with Director of Education Kim Mims

Hammond Regional Office

Anniversaries:

Congratulations to **PPO2 Kasey Wall** on celebrating five years with Hammond OJJ.

PPO2 Matt Bauer celebrates two years with Hammond OJJ.

Hammond OJJ welcomed six new PPOs: **Renee Barrois, Leigh Calmes, Bret Arnett, Kristin Rainey, Darius Moses and Brett Netto.**

PASS (Program for Acquisition of Social Skills) is a program that OJJ funds through a Community Empowerment Grant. It is administered by the St. Tammany Youth Services Bureau. Here is what several of our PASS graduates shared at the recent graduation ceremony about what they gained from the PASS Group:

"I learned many things that I use in my everyday life. These lessons range from setting a table to learning to cope with anger. The most useful skill I have learned while I was here was handshaking and how to go to job interviews. This class definitely did help me at school with my self-control in 7th hour, resulting in better grades."

"I learned to tie a tie and have patience. And I learned how to communicate better with others. And I learned new ways to become successful in my future

and to have self confidence in myself."

"I learned how to cook pancakes and how to control my anger. I learned how to tie a tie. I enjoyed having fun and learning in a group environment."

Jetson Center for Youth

The **Jetson Rising Stars Choir** worked overtime during the Veterans Day weekend, with three public performances in three days. They performed at the City of Baker Veterans Day commemorative event on the Sunday prior to Veterans Day, where members of the choir also presented the colors. The following day the choir went to Jackson to entertain the residents of the Louisiana War Veterans Home. After the program, members of the choir mingled with the residents for lunch, where they could visit with one another and share their experiences. On Veterans Day, the choir performed once again at the Port Hudson National Cemetery's Veterans Day Ceremony honoring the men and women who have served. Each performance was well-received and the choir continues to receive invitations to perform at community events.





The Jetson Rising Stars Choir performs at the Baker Veterans Day program.



Jetson Choir members enjoyed lunch and visited with the residents of the Louisiana War Veterans Home in Jackson after their Veterans Day performance.



The Jetson Choir performs at the Louisiana War Veterans Home in Jackson.

Lafayette / Opelousas Regional Office

The always active Lafayette OJJ reports a number of acknowledgements.

PPO Denis LaCroix, who works the Acadia Parish court system, took part in a "Bridges to Poverty" seminar sponsored by the Diocese of Lafayette. The lively workshop offered attendees tools to utilize in their work with the less fortunate.

St. Mary Parish **PPO Cassandra "Cassy" Gardiner** was a participant at the "Community Teams Tackling the Dropout Problem" seminar in Baton Rouge.

PPOs Jody Osmer and Beth Broussard are now both POST certified, having graduating from the St. Martin Sheriff's Training Academy.

PPO 3 Nick Landry, who is assigned to the Lafayette Parish courts, is working with a standout client who is attempting to graduate from Lafayette High School as a junior. This studious youth has taken her ACT and applied for admission to McNeese University, apparently academically ahead of most of her peers.

Educational Specialist Lou Gloston, Opelousas substation-based, attended the Louisiana Teacher Assistance and Assessment Program and the Special Education Assessment Training, a statewide program of assistance and assessment for new teachers.

OJJ employees attended the Acadiana Marine Institute Open House. Employees were given resident-guided tours of the entire facility and treated to demonstrations of the cadets' daily activities. All in attendance commented on the organization, cleanliness and positive attitudes of the staff and residents of AMI. It was a treat for all to see a facility in such order and with such nice staff and residents. (P.S. Don't attempt to visit AMI in Branch - out in the

country – unless you really know where you are going, otherwise you may very well get lost!)

PPO Rhonda Gallet is helping to collect toys for the kids at Faith House through donations from staff members.

Supervisor Erny Bejeaux and **PPO Nick Landry** addressed the 6th grade class at Acadiana Middle School, to discuss the criminal justice and court systems. Students participated in a mock court system journey, which was very interesting and engaging for all the children in attendance.

"Above and Beyond the Call of Duty": **PPO Kevin Broussard**, one of Lafayette OJJ's officers assigned to the Vermilion Parish wetland courts offered his services as a "judge" at the recent high school Debate Tournament held at Lafayette High School. Kevin said it felt good to be the man wearing the black robe for a change.

"Going the Extra Mile": **PPOs Deacon Jones, Rosanna Langer, and Jody Osmer** (all three of whom are assigned to the Iberia Parish District Court system) were on site to serve lunch and participate in games for the youth at the recent Veteran's Day celebration hosted by the Volunteers of America (VOA) Program in Opelousas. The lively memorial celebration included a Candle Lighting for the U.S. veterans, and musical entertainment by the OHS Color Guard and the Opelousas Soul X-Press Band. Many local veterans were honored for their service. Over

70 children were present for the activities, and were touched by the veterans and their stories. All were treated to a barbecue lunch.

Another Success Story

In the premier edition of [The Inside Scoop...of OJJ](#) we reported on the impressive success story of one of our juvenile clients. This month we have another of these "few and far between" success stories to share.

Sometimes our job as probation & parole officers is to recognize that a client can better be served outside of our agency's domain. That was the case with "Meghan." This young lady had repeated the 8th grade three times and was failing again, although we were convinced she had academic potential. The court had placed her in state custody and non-secure care twice in the past two years. Yet after three different group homes it was apparent that Meghan was not going to successfully complete the behavior modification program of any of our residential facilities any time soon.

She did show an interest in the National Guard Youth Challenge Program, so OJJ staff along with the non-secure/residential facility staff assisted her in getting the YCP interview. And, to make a long and rewarding story short, Meghan graduated from the five-month long National Guard boot camp program and obtained her GED in the process.

And although she has been released from OJJ custody and probation, we

are assisting her in getting into trade/vocational school. This young lady went from being significantly behind her peers academically to considerably ahead of them within several months with the "service coordination" and "continuum of care" of OJJ and one of its contract programs. And, no doubt, her self-esteem has been greatly heightened in the process with genuine hope of becoming "a responsible and productive citizen" of society, just as our Mission and Vision Statement states.

Growing Pains

Lively **Inside Scoop...of OJJ** reporter PPO Steve Neef, reports that Lafayette OJJ has always been a very interesting and unusually active eight-parish district. We not only have more than our share of clients it seems, but now our service providers are high and impressive in number and involvement as well. As some would say, "business is [still] booming." Consider this: When I started working here over 19 years ago, in 1989, we had just 2 supervisors and only 8 PPOs to cover this huge territory.

Now, some two decades later, we have seven supervisors and over 40 PPOs - the highest number of regional PPOs in the state by far! In fact, when I began in 1989 I was assigned to three courts in Iberia Parish. Probation officers handled both field and placement services back then. Today it takes seven PPOs to work the same three courts. There are now a little over twice as many clients in that parish.

Lake Charles Regional Office

We returned to our old OJJ building at end of November after being chased out by hurricane floodwaters. The building has been re-wired, new sheetrock hung, the carpet replaced, and the walls painted. We are survivors, and we are so grateful for what we have. Thank you to all our staff who have been so adaptable during this time of office instability. Further, our officers have carried heavier caseloads than usual, due to having a limited number of staff. We appreciate the efforts of all our officers at Lake Charles OJJ, who are dedicated to performing to their greatest potential and to getting the best results possible.

Congratulations to **PPO1 Garrick Chambers**, who graduated from the POST Academy in November.

Lake Charles OJJ celebrated Thanksgiving lunch "as a family" by going out to eat at Ryan's on November 21. We expressed thanks for our blessings.

Kudos to **PPO3 Ronald Gilchrist** who volunteered to take two probationers to a Friday night, high school football game. PPO Gilchrist acted as an unofficial male mentor with these young men, and he made a significant, positive impact. Thank you for going above and beyond your job responsibilities!

Kudos to **PPO2 Rebecca Harmon** for demonstrating generosity and kindness when she purchased a CD player for one of her probationers in Shelter Care.

Kudos to **PPO3 Fred Fontenot** for giving prompt attention to the increased computer needs of this office as a result of being displaced after Hurricane Ike.

The entire Lake Charles OJJ office completed the Service Coordination pre-test in November, and the office will begin Service Coordination training this month.

Monroe Regional Office

PPO Joel McNair and **PPO Jeremy Keyes** graduated from the POST Academy. Joel received the 1st place award in Academics, and Jeremy received the 2nd place Academic award. We are very proud of them.

Monroe OJJ raised \$1817.36 during our annual United Way Campaign.

PPO3 Karl Wallace attended the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy – Basic Gang School. He was also promoted to Supervisor.

Monroe OJJ held an office Thanksgiving luncheon for all staff. **PPO Patrick Cooper** brought his huge grill and we cooked a turkey, steaks, chicken, sausage, and hamburgers. We all brought our favorite home-made side dish and

desserts. It was a great meal and we all enjoyed the fellowship.

Veteran Day Essay Contest

Monroe OJJ held an essay contest for Veterans Day. The contest was open to Monroe OJJ youth, supervision and custody and 40 essays were submitted from all parishes in the Monroe region. A panel of probation officers judged the entries. First, second and third place winners were rewarded with gift cards purchased through donations by OJJ staff. First place prize was \$30.00, second place was \$20.00, and third place was \$10.00.

The winning essay was entitled, "What Veterans Day Means to Me". The first place winner was Jekevdrick C., a custody youth at Swanson, from Lincoln Parish. Second and third place winners were probation youth, also from Lincoln Parish. These winners received WalMart gift cards and certificates.

What Veterans Day Means to Me

By Jekevdrick C.

Prior to me being assigned this essay, I never knew why we celebrated "Veterans Day." I began to research the topic at the library and to my surprise I learned the true reason why we don't attend school on that day.

Veterans Day is a day set aside to honor men and women who have served the United States armed service. It's a legal holiday that is

celebrated on November 11, which marks the anniversary of the end of World War I. In the United States, we honor our veterans by giving support and recognition to those who have done the same for us.

Veterans Day to me is the day that focuses on the heart, dedication, service and love that our soldiers possess for our country. We should never forget our servicemen who gave up their families, jobs and personal goals to seek the safety of this great country. Many of our soldiers have lost limbs and their lives over this great act of kindness!

We have to also remember those soldiers who re-enlist over and over again to make sure the Americans citizens will continue to enjoy the prosperity and freedom that other countries take for granted.

Now that I know what Veterans Day means, I think that these men and women of honor should never be forgotten or thrown away. Their great accomplishments and sincere willingness to serve the American people should never go unrecognized. How much can you pay a man to give his own life? Nothing in this world can replace this. However, we can provide the best care for them and their families when they come home.

So when you're off work or out of school, show your gratitude to the armed services and government leaders. If we didn't have these veterans, who knows where we would be today.
Thank you.

Natchitoches Regional Office

Congratulations:

Monique LaCour, PPS was promoted to Program Specialist for the Natchitoches and Shreveport Regions.

Simon Sarpy and **Sederick Smith** were promoted to PPOs.



PPOs **Simon Sarpy** and **Jeremy Martin** were honored for their service as veterans.

Rosa Brownlee and her son **Wesley Brownlee** received the Firefighter of the Year Award for their service with the Flatwoods Volunteer Fire Department. They were the first mother and son firefighter team to receive this honor from the Rapides Parish Firefighters Assn.

Natchitoches OJJ enjoyed a wonderful lunch at the office to celebrate the Thanksgiving Holidays. Staff enjoyed fellowship with one another. Special appreciation goes out to all staff at Natchitoches OJJ for all the hard work that makes our office run efficiently. Natchitoches staff were privileged to have **Angela Bridgewater**, from Central Office, as our guest for holiday lunch.

Natchitoches OJJ staff have successfully completed service coordination training presented by

Carmen Leiva and **Nancy Gautreau**, of Central Office.

Natchitoches OJJ and Alexandria OJJ participated in Chemical Weapons training conducted by Staci Scott of Ware Youth Center, held at the Natchitoches Regional Office.

New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office

Congratulations to **Karen Ragan** on her promotion to Administrative Coordinator 2. We are sure Karen will continue to serve OJJ with hard work and dedication.

Welcome **Jaleesa Williams** to the Orleans OJJ family. Jaleesa is an Administrative Coordinator 1.

PPO2 Lemoyne Reine has a wonderful new addition to his family, a brand new granddaughter. Mikaela Ceaser was born on November 19, weighing in at 8lbs., 6ozs. Congratulations to the Reine family.

Orleans OJJ celebrated Thanksgiving together with wonderful turkey dinner complete with all the "trimmins and fixins".

Orleans OJJ will sponsor families for the holidays. Families in need will be chosen and presented with gifts from food to gift certificates.

PPO3 Stanley Schofield continues to motivate and impact people's lives in a phenomenal way. He recently spoke to youth at Norbert Rilleaux Elementary School, Garyville

Elementary, the Early College Program at Thurgood Marshall HS, and the female students at Edna Karr HS, on the topics "Developing Positive Self Esteem" and "Character Counts". We will be hearing many great things from Stanley.

Glenis Scott, a Social Worker at LaYep, (Louisiana Youth Empowerment Project) was featured in the New Orleans City Business newspaper. The article highlighted a mentoring program targeting youth before they get into trouble with the law, as opposed to re-entry programs that concentrate on youth already on probation or parole.



LaYEP recently took their youth on two trips, including a swamp tour and the National World War II (DDay) Museum in New Orleans. Pictured is a resident seen on the swamp tour.

Shreveport Regional Office

Welcome to **PPO Brandy Stratton**, the newest addition to the Shreveport OJJ family.

Shreveport and Natchitoches OJJ helped the Northwest Louisiana War Veteran's home in Bossier City hold a wonderful Veteran's Day celebration. Youth and staff from Ware Youth Center, Red River Marine Institute, Joy Home for Boys,

Rutherford House, Johnny Gray Jones Youth shelter, and Cool Springs of Logansport, all dedicated their time and effort to making this event successful. **Karen Brandao**, Assistant Director at Rutherford House, got luncheon supplies donated for the event on short notice. **Jan Crain** made cookies. Brookshires Grocery in Bossier City, La, donated bread; Johnny Gray Jones' kitchen crew made 300 sandwiches for the event. Everyone worked together with setup, serving, and transporting the residents for the ceremonies. **Natchitoches OJJ** traveled to Bossier City to participate in the parade and drive the kids and the floats. It was a wonderful event and the beauty was seeing OJJ at its best! Everyone came together and worked diligently to make it a wonderful experience for both the veterans and the youth.

Swanson Center for Youth

SCY held a memorial service November 21, in the gym, for **Sgt. Henry Fields**, who passed away Nov. 14. Present were Sgt. Fields' parents, fiancée and sisters, and **Deputy Assistant Secretary Philippe Magloire** and **State Director of Facilities John Anderson**. Chaplain Rev. Ricky James officiated at the program and also gave the meditation. The national anthem was sung by Youth Phillip P. Scripture was read by **Major Vernon Foy**. **Director Jerry Ward** and **Deputy Director Calvin Hawkins** spoke about Sgt. Fields. A solo was sung by **Msgt. Suzanne Hammond**. Staff and youth came forward to give their expressions.

Mr. Vincent Landrum, Head Coach at Wossman High School was a guest speaker. **Major Billy Varner** gave his expressions as Sgt. Fields' supervisor. **Captain Mitchell Williams** and teammates (A-TEAM) gave talks and had a "roll call" for the team; only Sgt. Fields was absent. The family made final remarks, encouraging the youth to take to heart all that Sgt. Fields had taught them

The poem below was written by Youth Charles J.

In commemoration of Mr. Henry Fields
Rest-n-peace, Mr. Henry Fields.
If I had the power to bring you back,
You back to life I will
He was dedicated to work at Swanson
Like a Navy SEAL
Sorry towards his family-n-friends
Now there is a lot of pain inside-n-tears

Mr. Fields was very strong
Just seen him a few days ago,
Now he is gone

I feel that God has called his child home
Besides his family, friends, youth on campus,
counselors, co-workers, teachers, etc.
Holly-D is going to miss him because
that was Mr. Fields' dorm

Words in this poem can't depict how I
feel towards Mr. Fields
These feelings and emotions in my gut
are realer than real
In my conclusion, from me to Mr. Fields' family there is so much love:
My Mr. Fields is gone but spiritually
alive, looking down on everyone right
now from the heavens above:
Gone but not 4 gotten. RIP Mr. Henry Fields

Veterans Day Program at the War Veterans Home

The Northeast Louisiana War Veterans Home in Monroe had its 12th annual Veterans Day Program in which SCY staff and youth participated. SCY was represented by 12 youth and six staff members. Some of the youth helped the staff clean up and cook hamburgers, hot dogs and brisket for the luncheon. Some of the youth served as ushers by pushing the wheel chair veterans to and from different distinctions. The youth enjoyed lunch with the veterans and really enjoyed the outing. The guest speaker was **State Representative Rosalind Jones** of Monroe.

The youth were surprised by statistics given by War Veterans Home Assistant Administrator Tommy Shoemaker:

the oldest veteran is 107 year old; 9.3 million veterans are 65 years or older; 1.9 million veterans are younger than 35; in 2007 there were 23.6 million veterans; 10.7 million veterans in the workforce are between 18-64 years old; 6 million veterans have a disability; 7.9 million veterans served during the Vietnam era; 5 million served during the Gulf War era; 2.9 million veterans served during the WWII era; 3 million veterans served during Korean era; 6.1 million veterans served during peacetime.

Southside High School programs

Southside Alternative School recognized National School Safety Week with several activities organized by **Ms. June Lengyon**. State Trooper Mark Dennis spoke to

the staff regarding safety in the school and how to detect problems with youth.

Terry Levine and **Regina Jackson**, Resource School Officers from Monroe City Schools, along with **Larry Wilson**, Director of the Our Kids Program, addressed the youth.

The youth also participated in essay and poster contests. The entries were judged and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons were presented to the winners in each category. Youth in the F.A.S.T. Program received the largest number of ribbons.

Southside High School Hosted a Veteran's Day Program - Congressman Rodney Alexander was the featured speaker



Principal William Lee, Linda Harrell, Administrative Assistant to the Director, and Congressman Rodney Alexander at the SCY Veterans Day program.

Southside Alternative High School/Swanson Center for Youth held a general assembly for Veteran's Day. The guest speaker was **U.S. Representative Rodney Alexander**. Congressman Alexander spoke briefly to the youth and staff on freedom and the role veterans have played in allowing us to maintain the freedom and way of life we enjoy in

this country. The Congressman presented the school with a flag that has flown over the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. Congressman Alexander took time following the program to chat with several youth and to pose for pictures.

The Bastrop High School Junior ROTC presented the colors and the Bastrop Drill Team performed after Congressman Alexander's speech.

Tallulah Regional Office

Please continue to keep **Regional Manager Ruth Stephens** and her family in your thoughts and prayers. Her husband, Sonny, underwent surgery recently.

Congratulations to **PP Supervisor Johnnie Bowman**, whose daughter

Alexis is graduating cum laude from Southern University on Baton Rouge. Alexis is Student Marshall of her nursing class.

PPO3 Jena McCattry is back at work part time after a recent surgery. Please keep her in your thought and prayers.

Thibodaux Regional Office

Congratulations:

PPO3 James "Eddie" Fannin was November Employee of the Month.

PPO2 Lori Babin was promoted PPO3 and will oversee the secure girls unit for Region IV.

The Inside Scoop...of

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is produced by the Central Office Chief of Staff's Team with input from staff statewide.

...until next

OJJ Administrative Team

Mary L. Livers, MSW, Ph.D, Deputy Secretary
Prince E. Gray, Jr., Assistant Secretary
Marlyn Goins-McCants, Chief of Staff
James Bueche, Undersecretary
Ellyn (Barbor) Peterson, Chief of Operations/
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Continuous
Quality Improvement Services
Carolyn B. Lewis, Deputy Assistant Secretary,
Community Based Services
Philippe Magloire, Deputy Assistant Secretary,
Facilities
Kim B. Mims, Director of Education
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Chief of Staff's Team

Marlyn Goins-McCants, Chief of Staff
Yolanda Ellis, Director of Volunteer Services
Jerel Giarrusso, Communications Director
Fran Martin, Director of Staff Development
Shaeki Shanklin, Administrative Coordinator